

backgammon

Michael Kiolan
of the American Backgammon Club

If you have a backgammon situation you'd like to see explained in a future column, write to the American Backgammon Club at Box 599, Plymouth 48170, or call 459-5776.

second runs

Tom Panzenhagen

"Don't Look Now" (1974), 7:30 and 10 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Cass City Cinema in the First Unitarian Church, 4605 Cass at Forest, phone 832-6309, \$2. Running time 110 minutes.

Nicholas Roeg was one of the first directors to blend eroticism with fright, and nobody has ever done it quite so well — Brian De Palma included.

"Don't Look Now" is set in Venice and it stars Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland as husband and wife. Christie's pursuit of the couple's dead daughter, whom she thinks may be contacted in the afterlife, leads her through the decaying waterways and lifeless back alleys of Venice.

An aura of death — perhaps deathlessness is a better description — hangs heavy in this timeless setting and the viewer begins to feel that if the child could be brought back to life, this is the place where it would happen.

Roeg, who was a cinematographer ("Petulia," "Far from the Madding Crowd") before making his directing debut, is expert at capturing moods of decadence and deterioration on film. He also uses colors to highlight such moods; in "Don't Look Now" a blood-red raincoat believed worn by the deceased daughter contrasts strikingly with the grim surroundings of backwater Venice.

Also a contrast to the overall sense

of foreboding is a graphic sex scene between Christie and Sutherland. The scene adds a dimension to Christie's character, especially, demonstrating her openness, passion and love for life. She's not the type to sulk over tombstones, but in Nicholas Roeg's purgatorial Venice, she, too, begins to believe that anything can happen. Rating: \$3.55.

"Ben Hur" (1959), 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser at Grand River, phone 537-2560, \$2. Running time 212 minutes.

Charlton Heston, alias Andrew Jackson, alias Moses, was a natural for the role of Judah Ben Hur, author Lew Wallace's aristocratic Jew who is converted to Christianity at the time of Christ.

Ben Hur's struggle against the Roman governor of Palestine (Stephen Boyd) takes on epic proportions in this William Wyler film that won 11 Oscars. The chariot scene — staged by second unit director Andrew Marton — is one of the most amazing sequences ever filmed.

Director Wyler keeps tight rein on the actors and the action, though, making this a personable film despite its enormity.

Incidentally, the Wallace novel was written 100 years ago. Film will be shown in 70mm with six-channel stereo sound. Rating: \$3.60.

contend this position is a "fair take," one must consider the score in match play.

If I were black, I don't think I would play for the match in this position because the score is tied. Either player needs two points to win the tournament. Black is forced to roll a large double to save the game. In tournament match play, to hope for or rely on a double 6 or double 5 to steal the lead is a long shot.

The pressure is not on white but on black to perform. Was white correct to double? Absolutely. Black should have refused the double, take the one-point loss and play another game.

IN THE TOURNAMENT
White doubled. Black accepted. White then rolled a 6-1. Black rolled double 6.

White was worried, but soon rolled a double 6 in the bear-off to win the game and match.

If the score had been different and black was behind 5-3 or 5-4 after rolling the 6-6, he could have redoubled the cube to 4 and it probably would not have been taken.

But that didn't happen and I won. That's backgammon.

HOME TABLE						BLACK						CUBE						OUTER TABLE					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
HOME TABLE						WHITE						OUTER TABLE						OUTER TABLE					

Troy Players do 'The Bat'

Halloween comes early for Troy Players who will present "The Bat," opening at 8 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Troy Community Center on Big Beaver Road just off I-75.

Additional performances will be given at 8 p.m. Oct. 18, 24-25 and at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 19. For reservations, call 879-1283.

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